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SAN MANUEL CHAIRMAN HONORED FOR DEDICATION AND CULTURAL OUTREACH

Chairman James Ramos to Be Given Special Recognition during Conference for Indian Families

SAN MANUEL INDIAN NATION (Highland, Calif.) – July 9, 2007 – James Ramos, chairman of the San Manuel Band of Serrano Mission Indians, will be presented with special recognition for his work to preserve and teach cultural traditions during the Ninth Annual For All My Relations: A Conference for Indian Families in Anaheim, Calif.

The award ceremony will take place July 10 at a luncheon attended by an estimated 600-plus conference attendees including Indian youth and parents, tribal council members, tribal agency employees, health and social service providers and county and state employees who work to improve the health, welfare, and safety of Indian Families. The conference, held July 9-12 in Anaheim, Calif., organized by the National Indian Justice Center, centers on means and methodologies to address issues of health, safety and welfare within native communities. "In dealing with issues of common concern among tribes, I believe we need greater cultural involvement," said Chairman James Ramos of the San Manuel Band of Serrano Mission Indians. "By becoming stronger in culture, both individuals and the communities create a path to face adversity and challenges."

In addition to serving as tribal chairman, Ramos is co-founder of San Manuel cultural awareness program and serves as director of the California Indian Cultural Awareness Conference. His commitment to preserving the cultures of California Indian tribes involves a strong focus on the development of cultural and indigenous language programs through community involvement and collaboration with educators and tribal historians.

"It is an honor to present chairman Ramos with this award because he exemplifies how leaders can practice sovereignty on a holistic level through the promotion of culture, wellness and education," said Joseph Myers director of the National Indian Justice Center and Board Member of the California Indian Museum. "He recognizes that

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the cornerstone of sovereignty is the protection and promotion tribal cultural integrity. We are honoring him because he is leading his tribe and others in that direction.”

About the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians

The San Manuel Band of Serrano Mission Indians is a federally recognized American Indian tribe located near the city of Highland, Calif. The Serrano Indians are the indigenous people of the San Bernardino highlands, passes, valleys and mountains who share a common language and culture. The San Manuel reservation was established in 1891 and recognized as a sovereign nation with the right of self-government. Since time immemorial, the San Manuel tribal community has endured change and hardship. Amidst these challenges the tribe continued to maintain its unique form of governance. Like other governments it seeks to provide a better quality of life for its citizens by building infrastructure, maintaining civil services and promoting social, economic and cultural development. Today San Manuel tribal government oversees many governmental units including the departments of fire, public safety, education and environment.

About the National Indian Justice Center

The National Indian Justice Center, Inc., (NIJC) is an Indian owned and operated non-profit corporation with principal offices in Santa Rosa, California. NIJC was established in 1983 through the collective efforts of the National American Indian Court Judges Association, the American Indian Lawyer Training Program, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs in order to establish an independent national resource for Native communities and tribal government. The goals of NIJC are to design and deliver legal education, research, and technical assistance programs which seek to improve the quality of life for Native communities and the administration of justice in Indian country.

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